

INSTRUCTIONGuidance and Counseling Programs

The board provides in each of its schools programs of guidance and counseling which are available to all students, however, no student will be required to participate in any counseling program to which the student's parents object.

In adherence with the Standards of Quality of the Commonwealth of Virginia each school provides:

a. Academic Guidance - Guidance which assists students and their parents to acquire knowledge of the curricula choices available to students, to plan a program of studies, to arrange and interpret academic testing, and to seek post-secondary academic opportunities;

b. Career Guidance - Guidance which helps students to acquire information and plan action about work, jobs, apprenticeships, and post-secondary educational and career opportunities; and

c. Personal/Social Counseling - Counseling which assists students to develop an understanding of themselves, the rights and needs of others, how to resolve conflict and to define individual goals, reflecting their interests, abilities and aptitudes. Such counseling may be provided either (i) in groups in which generic issues of social development are addressed or (ii) through structured individual or small group multi-session counseling which focuses on the specific concerns of the participant(s).

The board prohibits counseling techniques which are beyond the scope of the professional certification or training of counselors, including hypnosis, or other psychotherapeutic techniques that are normally employed in medical or clinical settings and focus on mental illness or psychopathology.

Parents shall be notified in writing on an annual basis concerning the academic and career guidance programs, and the personal/social counseling programs which are available to students within the school division. Parents will be advised concerning the purpose, general description of the programs, how they may review materials to be used in the programs, and procedures by which they may limit a student's

INSTRUCTIONGuidance and Counseling Programs (continued)

participation in the program. Information and records of personal/social counseling shall be kept confidential and separate from a student's educational records and shall not be disclosed to third parties without prior parental consent or as otherwise provided by law.

The board recognizes that there may exist certain facets of the personal/social counseling program which some parents may find objectionable. No student shall be required to participate in any counseling program to which the student's parents object, provided that the parents notify the building principal in writing that the student is not to participate and is therefore opting out. Such written request shall be maintained in the appropriate student file.

Legal Reference: Through June 30, 1999

Code of Va., §22.1-209. Employment counseling and placement services. (1991)

Code of Va., §22.1-253.13:2.D. Standard 2. Support Services..."Each local school board shall also provide a program of pupil personnel services for grades K through 12 which shall be designed to aid students in their educational, social and career development..."

Regulations of the Virginia Board of Education, Revised 1996, "Regulations Regarding School Guidance and Counseling Programs in the Public Schools of Virginia."

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), P.L. 93-380, 20 U.S.C. Section 1232(g) (1979); 34 C.F.R. Part 99

INSTRUCTION

Guidance and Counseling Programs (continued)

Adopted by School Board: May 28, 1996